

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01681 201319Z
ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 201118Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USIA FOR IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, NO, UR, SW, SHUMS
SUBJECT: SAKHAROV AND MEDVEDEV TV INTERVIEWS

REF: OSLO 1788

1. SWEDISH TV RAN INTERVIEW WITH SAKHAROV AND MEDVEDEV
IN EVENING NEWS PROGRAMS ON APRIL 15. SAKHAROV INTERVIEW
AS REPORTED REFTEL.

2. MEDVEDEV INTERVIEW WAS IN RUSSIAN WITH SWEDISH
LANGUAGE OVERLAY. EXACT TRANSCRIPT NOT NOW AVAILABLE.
ACCORDING TO EMBOFFS WHO VIEWED IT, MEDVEDEV EXPRESSED
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN WITH EFFECT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S
PUBLIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ON SOVIET DISSIDENTS.
MEDVEDEV APPARENTLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUCH PUBLIC
EMPHASIS ON RIGHTS ISSUE HAS PERSUADED THE SOVIET STATE
APPARATUS TO REIN IN DISSIDENTS' ACTIVITIES AND
GENERALLY TO MAKE LIFE INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE FOR
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THESE GROUPS. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD SWEDISH INTERVIEWER
THAT A BETTER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE LOWER-KEY DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS TO RESOLVE INDIVIDUAL CASES.

3. EXACT TEXT OF THAT PART OF MEDVEDEV INTERVIEW SHOWN
ON SWEDISH TV CAN BE PURCHASED BY EMBASSY FROM COMMERCIAL
FIRM IF WASHINGTON INTERESTED.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SOVIET DISPLEASURE OVER PRODUCTION AND BROADCAST OF INTERVIEWS CAN BE ASSUMED, THE AIRING OF EXPRESSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BY SOVIET DISSIDENTS (AND SOVIET EXILES RESIDING IN SWEDEN) OVER SWEDISH RADIO FACILITIES IS NOT CONSIDERED AN UNUSUAL EVENT HERE. AND IT APPEARS TO EMBASSY THAT IN THE FINAL MONTHS BEFORE THE BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE, SWEDISH MEDIA INCLUDING TV ARE CARRYING INCREASING AMOUNTS OF SUCH MATERIAL. THE AMOUNT OF CRITICISM ONE SHOULD DIRECT AT THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN SWEDEN AS ELSEWHERE, AS IS SHOWN BY SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MURMURS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SPEAKING OUT TOO STRIDENTLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THUS ENDANGERING DETENTE (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY STEN ANDERSSON TOOK THIS APPROACH AT THE SOCIAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING APPARENTLY, AS PER HAGUE 2015). WHILE THE PALME GOVERNMENT DID SPEAK OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY RE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WE BELIEVE THE NEW FALLDIN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHRIGHT (AS IN FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S RECENT RIKSDAG SPEECH, STOCKHOLM 1498, IN WHICH SHE CONDITIONED DETENTE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS). IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT HAS WARMLY WELCOMED THE MORE OUTSPOKEN APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, SINCE THAT ACCORDS WELL WITH THE CURRENT GOS APPROACH.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
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